

Diocese of Derby

**The Derby Diocesan
Commitment
to the
Environment
- a framework for action**



The Commitment

Derby Diocesan Synod

- i. Commends the attached Toolkit including the paper 'Sustain and Renew the Life of the Earth' for widespread use throughout the Diocese;
- ii. Asks the diocesan office and each diocesan committee to devise and adopt appropriate environment policies, and to consider the environmental impact of all its policies, practical plans and programmes;
[Toolkit Document 2, below, may help groups to think through these issues].
- iii. Asks each deanery, Mission and Ministry Area (MMA), parish, and church school, to devise appropriate environment policies for themselves;
[Toolkit Document 3, below, 'A Model Policy' is particularly designed to help with this]
- iv. Commits the Diocese of Derby to ensure that a Diocesan Advisory Group on the Environment exists, and is properly resourced, in order to promote and monitor these proposals;
- v. Undertakes to conduct an environmental review and to arrange a regular Synod debate on environmental issues at least once every three years but more frequently according to need and changing circumstances;
- vi. Agrees in principle to develop an appropriate Environmental Management System for the diocese;
- vi. Asks the Archdeacons to include questions on environmental policies in their Articles of Enquiry to the parishes on a regular basis, and to review and assess the answers received.
- vii. Recommends a Training Needs Assessment be carried out as appropriate and commends Envirolearn and other training programmes.

Agreed at Derby Diocesan Synod on 20th May 2006.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. This Commitment to the Environment – a diocesan framework for action - was prepared by the Diocesan Environmental Advisory Group, a working party of the Derby Diocesan Council for Social Responsibility. The Advisory Group is committed to working with ecumenical partners and encourages ecumenical and secular co-operation in relation to environmental issues at all levels.
- 1.2. The attached Toolkit comprises a family of three documents to help resource the implementation of the Diocesan Commitment to the Environment at all levels of church in the diocese.
- 1.3. The first, a policy document, called '*Sustain and Renew the Life of the Earth*', provides a theological basis for the church's involvement in environmental concerns and suggests some key tasks for the church.
- 1.4. The second, *Making the Framework your own*, provides a methodology for implementing an environmental policy.
- 1.5. The third, *A Model Policy*, provides suggestions about how individual parishes, groups and diocesan boards and councils, could work towards more environmentally friendly less environmentally destructive ways of working and good practice. It does not seek to be prescriptive but offers guidance and ideas for resources.
- 1.6. The Toolkit is offered to assist diocesan, deanery, MMA and parish groups to implement the Diocesan Commitment. The following diagram shows the relationship between the Diocesan Commitment, the Toolkit and the structures of the diocese.

Derby Diocesan Environmental Framework

DIOCESAN COMMITMENT

Diocese Deanery MMA Parish PCC Boards & Councils

TOOLKIT

A family of three documents to enable you to implement the Diocesan Framework at local level

1 Sustain & Renew the Life of the Earth 2 Making the Framework your own 3 A Model Policy

Diocesan Environment Officer

Diocesan Environmental

Advisory Group

(Resource/Feedback)

Toolkit Document 1

Sustain and Renew the Life of the Earth

Resource Material for your Environment Framework for Action

2. The environment and the mission of the church

- 2.1. The Five Marks of Mission express the fundamental purposes of the church in a succinct way. They are backed by the Anglican Consultative Council, the Lambeth Conference of Bishops and the General Synod. For some years they have informed policy in the Diocese of Derby. In brief, they are: evangelism, nurturing discipleship, helping the needy, struggling for justice, and caring for the environment. In full, the Fifth Mark is:

To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

- 2.2. This resource document invites you to make this concern a real feature of parish, MMA, deanery and diocesan life, and suggests practical ways of doing so. The spirit of the Framework for Action is to encourage colleagues at all levels to identify their own local, manageable and achievable targets. The resource document is in three parts:

Part 1 – A theological basis for environmental action including key tasks for the church.

Part 2 – A Toolkit for implementing the policy.

Part 3 - A local policy framework.

3. Theological Basis

- 3.1. The Genesis stories show the creation as inherently good. Humans are given dominion (stewardship) over it (Genesis 1.28) and are to care for it (Genesis 2.15). One result of the Fall, however, is enmity between humans and nature (Genesis 3.15). Later, the prophets dreamed of a time when humanity and the natural world would live in harmony with each other (Isaiah 11.6-9). In the New Testament Jesus often drew on nature to illustrate his teaching (Matthew 13), and St Paul sees redemption on a cosmic scale (Romans 8.18-25).
- 3.2. Today we realise that 'dominion' has too often been interpreted to mean exploit, treat violently, use for human ends. We now understand it to mean be responsible for, nurture, manage sensitively and to recognise that there may be circumstances where nature is allowed to take its course. We are increasingly aware of our inter-relationship with the natural world and our dependence on it. Taking the long view, our redemption is not complete until it includes that of the whole creation. This gives us a powerful motivation to heal our broken relationships with the natural world. The resources in this paper show how we can take further steps to put this into action.

3.3. Key Tasks for the Church

First of all, to make the Fifth Mark of Mission real in our lives, we can:

i. Give thanks for the creation; confess the sin that damages it, pray about the natural world and for those involved in its use and care.

ii. Find out about current Christian thinking on the environment by contacting organisations such as:

Christian Ecology Link (*CEL, 3 Bond Street, Lancaster LA1 3ER. Tel: 01524 33858. Website: www.christian-ecology.org.uk*),

Eco-congregation (*The Arthur Rank Centre, Stoneleigh Park, Warwickshire CV8 2LZ*

Tel: 02476 853061. Website: www.ecocongregation.org), or

The Conservation Foundation (*1 Kensington Gore, London SW7 2AR. Tel: 0207 591 3111. Website: conservationfoundation.co.uk [ask about 'Parish Pumps']*).

The Centre for Alternative Technology, Machynlleth, Powys.
01654 705950, <http://www.cat.org.uk>

The Derbyshire Alternative Technology Association
0115 9448911, <http://www.DerbyshireAta.org.uk>

Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility

ECCR, P.O. Box 500, Oxford OX1 1ZL

Telephone: +44 (0)1865 245349 E-mail: info@eccr.org.uk www.eccr.org.uk

Caring for God's Acre

6 West Street, Leominster, Herefordshire, HR6 8ES.

Telephone : 01568 611154. By e mail : info@cfga.fsnet.co.uk

www.caringforgodsacre.co.uk

iii. Study the scriptures and the Christian tradition, and environmental issues, reflect theologically and practically on them, relate them to the Marks of Mission, and work with adults and young people on appropriate attitudes and action.

iv. Care for those parts of the environment for which we are especially responsible as the church:

- the fabric and contents of our buildings,
- plants and animals in our churchyards,
- our glebe land, clergy houses, and other church property
- the local environment over which we have control
- the global environment for which we have shared responsibility..

v. Protect our shared global resources and natural spaces, being aware of the temptation to use more than our share of resources, being particularly aware of sources which nature can only replenish slowly, and pollutants which nature takes a long time to assimilate.

- vi. Commit to continuous improvement in our environmental performance.
- vii. Learn and campaign, often with others including joint working with secular organisations where appropriate, to put right damage to the environment, avoid further possible damage, and safeguard the integrity of the natural world.
- viii. Set an example, as individuals and as the church, of 'living lightly' on the earth.
- ix. Endeavour to share learning, knowledge and experience in environmental activities with ecumenical partners

Toolkit Document 2

Making the Framework your own

4. Introduction

- 4.1. "Oh no, another diocesan initiative for us pressed parishes to attend to!" If you feel this, you will not be alone, though there will be others who will be thinking, "At last the church is taking the environment seriously." So can you summon up the energy to use the opportunity of the new diocesan commitment to the environment to move things along a bit at parish level? We hope you can, as it is not just a matter of oughts (we 'ought' to care for God's creation; we 'ought' to work at the Fifth Mark of Mission; for credibility in mission to people we 'ought' to care for the environment and future generations), it is our duty and our joy. The joyful part is rejoicing in the wonder of God's creation, from plants and animals to things like the weather and our contribution to it, feeling one is playing one's proper part in the scheme of things.
- 4.2. So, please don't let this become a burden as you focus on all the things you cannot do, but enjoy the excitement of doing new things that are within the reach of your parish.

5. Suggested procedure

5.1. Recruit a 'Green Apostle'

If you are the vicar, churchwarden, or PCC secretary, who has just received the diocesan mailing, the first thing to consider is who is the best person in the parish to take a lead on the environment.

- It could be you.
- It might be another PCC member,
- Or someone else with enthusiasm who could attend PCC meetings where the environment is on the agenda.

Ideally your 'Green Apostle' should be somebody who knows a bit about it and be willing to undergo an assessment of their training needs.

5.2. Learn the process

This person then needs to

- Familiarise themselves with the diocesan material and, perhaps, environmental issues more widely. The environmental pages on the Diocesan web site may offer or indicate possible training courses and resources.
- They can then look carefully at the diocesan papers on the environment and consider how they might best be adapted to the parish. They provide only a model and we hope parishes will make the commitment their own by changing it to fit their own circumstances and the concerns God has laid on them. As they work through the model clauses they may find some that can stand as they are or just be omitted (not all may be relevant), others could be altered straightforwardly, yet others may need to be presented to the PCC as a series of alternatives to choose between.

5.3. Get cracking

It will be particularly important to sound out who might be the Environment Officer (Green Apostle) for the parish (warning! – it might be you). But even if there are no volunteers, do not let that stop the parish from adopting the environment framework as the bulk of the responsibility rests with the whole PCC and congregation. The job of the Environment Officer is to keep the subject on the agenda of the parish, but this could be done in other ways, such as having a regular agenda item on the subject at PCC meetings. It is recommended that specific actions be given to a named person with a requirement that a report back on the progress of the action be received at the next meeting.

- One idea some parishes may find helpful is to set up a Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Committee that incorporates Global Responsibility. These topics have been allied issues in the work of the World Council of Churches for many years, and there is a lot of overlap between them. Such a JPIC committee can support an Environment Officer so that they do not feel a lone voice, or it can even take on the role of the Environment Officer in a collective capacity.

5.4. Taking the Framework forward

The next step is

- to present the Diocesan Commitment to the Environment to the PCC (or equivalent body), seeking a continuous improvement in environmental performance
- together with your suggestions on how it could be taken forward by explaining the reasons for taking the environment seriously and for having a policy
- then set out some of the things churches and Christians can do to help
- and then get to the details of the text of any policy with its various clauses.

5.5. After the framework is agreed

When the PCC (or equivalent body) has agreed a framework, and this may take more than one meeting, it would be helpful for the Diocesan Environmental Advisory Group to receive a copy. This is so that we can share your pleasure at getting this far and to learn from what you have done. We may be able to share your good ideas with other parishes (appropriately crediting the originators). We invite you to send a copy of your policy to the Bishop's Officer for the Environment (c/o Diocesan Council for Social Responsibility, Derby Church House, Full Street, Derby, DE1 3DR). The Bishop's Environmental Officer is a good person to ask for more ideas and resources. The diocesan papers refer to three particular national organisations that can help and give their contact details. But also ask around in your parish and check with your neighbours to get other good ideas.

5.6. Celebrate!

It is a good idea to celebrate your commitment

- Perhaps with a special service.

- Do let other people know what you have done.
- This especially includes the wider congregation, so give a report in the parish magazine or whatever.
- It also includes your general neighbours, so try to get your local newspaper to run an article on it. You can be pleased at what you have done and be confident that most of its readers will be encouraged to hear of their local church taking such a step.
- It also includes ecumenical neighbours and partners.

5.7. Implement

Of course it is very easy for policies to be adopted and then to gather dust for a year or two before finding their way to the wastepaper basket. After your hard work, and for the sake of the creation, you will not want that to happen.

- A group of people will need to work through the specific clauses, for instance, working out concrete changes in how the church does things, e.g. what food it buys, how it heats the church, whether car sharing could be organised for Sunday mornings. The use of skilled volunteers is encouraged.
- Alternatively, already established groups such as a worship committee or a fabric committee could be asked to consider the issues that apply to them and to respond accordingly. The need for some training may need to be considered.
- Find local partners to work with .e.g. Schools. Working with others in your community can be a great opportunity to form relationships and witness to a Christian commitment for the environment.
- There are lots of resources to help you – check out the environmental pages on the Derby Diocesan web site for more information.

5.8. Review

And how will you be doing a year hence? The clauses that specify when the PCC and others will review what is going on are very important. So don't let people forget that there should be

- a six monthly review (keep in mind that environmental issues and the appropriate responses are changing rapidly).
- a biennial debate
- an item in the annual report.

If the parish has a keen Environment Officer, this will be easier to do, but even if you do not have such a person, the PCC secretary can establish the routine of putting the environment on the agenda at the agreed frequency.

5.9. Be of good cheer!

- 5.9.1. Be encouraged. Every little helps. As Christians we believe that no good effort is wasted.

- 5.9.2. Be realistic. Doing little things occasionally is good, but will not be enough. Expect and encourage people to educate and inform themselves about the issues and the solutions and to keep aware of changing concerns.
- 5.9.3. Beware of complacency. There is now more of a consensus than ever before that climate change poses a real threat to the life of the planet. Our response must be adequate to the scale of the problem.
- 5.9.4. Keep going, and if sometimes the church takes a step back, work and pray for it until it takes two steps forward again.

A prayer

Almighty God,
give us reverence for all creation
and respect for every person,
that we may mirror your likeness
in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Collect (2nd before Lent, Additional)

Toolkit Document 3

A Model Policy

6. Introduction

- 6.1. The following list of clauses to include in an environmental policy is intended to cover a wide range of groups within the diocese of Derby, from PCCs to Boards and Councils. The hope is that a particular group (PCC, MMA, Deanery, Board or Council, etc.) will select from them as appropriate. We encourage you to amend, and add to, the clauses suggested below. The process of formulating your policy is as important as the final result, so we encourage you to discuss the matter fully with your group. You will need to win hearts as well as minds to this concern. Comments for guidance are included within brackets.

General Clauses

[You will probably want to include most of the general clauses]

1. We (Diocesan Board, Council, Deanery, MMA, Parish, etc.), affirm the Fifth Mark of Mission ('to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth') as a central part of our life, work and mission.
2. We will take environmental concerns fully into account in our mission, worship, study, education, training, (with other stakeholders within the Diocese, City and County) pastoral, administrative and other programmes and projects.
3. Keeping in mind the principle to 'Think Global - Act Local', we will identify environmental issues in our village, town, county or planet as a whole, and devise appropriate action on them and consider the consequences of our consumption and emissions locally, for all the peoples of the Earth.
4. We will appoint a person as our Environment Officer and encourage him or her to bring environmental concerns forward on a regular basis and identify and champion environmental improvements in their parish or equivalent community.
[This is where you may mention a JPIC committee or other mechanism for keeping the environment before the church, especially if no volunteer is likely]
5. We will seek appropriate information from a Christian environmental group (e.g. *Christian Ecology Link, Eco-congregation, Parish Pumps*) and keep abreast of wider environmental thinking and techniques for environmental improvement.
6. We will undertake an 'environmental audit' of our premises and property, make a list of the most significant environmental aspects and impacts of our activities on the natural world for which we are responsible, and devise appropriate plans to care for the Earth, and make our activities sustainable.
[For many churches, their churchyards will be important for wildlife, or there may be protected animals and birds using the church itself as a haven]

7. We will consider the local and global environmental impact of all our policies and plans, and accept that additional effort and short term costs may be incurred, although long term benefits may be anticipated.
8. We will ask our members to consider their personal impact on the environment in their daily lives and the actions they could take.
9. We will support the work of local and national environmental organisations, as appropriate.
10. Recognising that issues and concerns relating to the environment are rapidly changing we will review progress with the implementation and execution of the policy every six months and hold a formal debate or discussion on environmental issues and policy at least once every two years.
[It may be a good idea to also specify that the PCC or Annual Meeting receives a report on environmental activity more often than this]
11. We will endeavour to consult with our ecumenical partners at an early stage in our progress towards our local environmental policy.

Group Clauses

[Although some of these may not seem relevant at first sight many of them could be adapted for parishes. They are included here as a way of indicating that all levels and structures within the diocese are encouraged to operate within the Diocesan Framework]

Finance

11. We will pay attention to environmental concerns in our banking and investment practice, and continue to pay regard to the national church ethical investment policy and whenever possible pursue ethical purchasing policies.
[The PCC may well invest funds and so this clause could be relevant]
12. We will encourage the use of more environmentally-friendly vehicles and fuels and the sharing and public use of transport systems where possible.

Buildings and Land

13. We will take environmental concerns into account in managing land, and other properties owned by the diocese, and seek to encourage tenants and occupiers to do the same.
[Does the PCC own land or property itself?]
14. We will seek ways to assess the value of our land and property for wildlife, and to manage them to encourage and conserve biodiversity, wherever possible.
15. We will seek to meet the environmental standards set by the Green Guide for clergy housing, and accept that additional short term costs may be incurred, although long term benefits may be anticipated.
[Does the PCC control a curate's house or other worker's homes?]

16. We will encourage parishes, architects, surveyors, contractors and the Diocesan Surveyor to take environmental concerns into account from the beginning of planning a project; to significantly exceed the statutory minimum requirements imposed by building regulations and provide formal briefs appropriate to these objectives to deliver long term sustainability.
[This applies as much to work on the church itself, and on any halls the PCC has, as to houses]

Worship

17. We will encourage parishes and others to include environmental concerns in their worship, and provide a range of appropriate materials for them.
[Every parish should consider how they can include the environment in their worship. The Diocesan Liturgical Committee is one source of help to do this]
18. We will encourage church schools in the diocese to adopt environment policies, and to give environmental concerns a higher profile in their life and work.
[The church Sunday school can do the same, and if there is a school, church or otherwise, within the parish, might they welcome encouragement and support from the church in addressing environmental issues?]
19. We will commit our community to continuous improvement in our environmental performance, in support of all the ecosystems of the Earth, upon which all life depends.

Specific Clauses

[Most of the specific clauses will be useful to parishes, but they are, perhaps, the most challenging of the clauses, as they are specific about what is to change under the new policy. A useful adage is 'Best Available Technique Not Entailing Excessive Cost (BATNEEC)']

Transport:

20. We will encourage environmentally-friendly forms of transport, walk, cycle, use public transport, share cars, keep journeys to meeting venues short, and keep fossil fuel emissions as low as we can, wherever possible.
21. We will keep the necessity for particular meetings under review and seek ecologically friendly alternatives whenever possible.
22. We will encourage and support the adoption of alternative vehicle fuels, in particular those of sustainable carbon neutral origin, including waste food oil, and pure vegetable oil based biodiesels'. See www.bio-power.co.uk

Energy:

23. We will make an energy audit of all buildings we use or own at least every two years, improve insulation, look for economies in heating, use thermostats, fit low-energy light bulbs, switch to 'green' energy suppliers, install appropriate passive and active renewable energy systems (e.g. solar and wind technologies), when appropriate after seeking professional advice, keep temperatures down, avoid leaving appliances and equipment in stand-by mode and turn off computers and electrical appliances when not in use, and seek to save energy wherever possible. Computers should where possible, participate in 'public good computing projects'. The following are recommended, but others also have ethical merit, and such projects will continue to emerge in the future.

<http://www.climateprediction.net/>
<http://www.grid.org/projects/cancer/>
<http://folding.stanford.edu/>

The donation of computing resources to such projects may be seen as analogous to charitable giving.

24. We will seek ways to reduce consumption, particularly of paper and envelopes, and all other materials, and the impact of our activities on the environment, use recycled materials whenever possible, recycle waste and take it to collection points, reduce the negative social and environmental impacts of computers, use low-environmental impact cleaning materials (avoiding chlorine-based products in general and phosphate based detergents), avoid using disposable items, avoid excessive use of fertilisers and pesticides, to use wood from sustainable sources wherever possible, and to keep abreast of developments in re-cycling and raise our awareness of the underlying principles of ecology and sustainability.
25. As far as possible to use low fossil carbon or carbon neutral fuels.

Biodiversity:

26. We will assess the value of our land and property to wildlife, and manage them to encourage and conserve biodiversity, wherever possible.
27. We will seek to purchase food and drink that is locally-sourced, ethically-produced, animal-friendly, and fairly-traded, avoid over-catering, use seasonal foods, and consider carefully the appropriateness of using genetically-modified foodstuffs.

Water:

28. We will avoid using water unnecessarily, install water meters where appropriate, check for leakages regularly, fit water-minimising systems to taps and cisterns, specify such equipment in new and refurbished buildings and collect and use rainwater, for all possible applications. We will seek to understand the complexity of the ecology of creation and how to support and be part of it.
29. We will seek to understand the complexity of the energy flows, resources and ecology of creation.

Please feel free to photocopy this Toolkit for use by other parties, or encourage them to download the latest version from the environmental pages within the diocesan web site, <http://www.derby.anglican.org/>.

Help and support:

The Diocesan Officer for Environmental Affairs (The Rev'd Canon Donald C Macdonald) and other members of the Diocesan Advisory Group for the Environment are very willing to respond to requests to speak at PCCs', MMAs, Deanery Synods etc, with sufficient notice. Please make your requests to the Diocesan Officer in the first instance – contact details are given below.

The Rev'd Canon Donald C Macdonald
St. Osmund's Vicarage
London Road
Derby
DE24 8UW

Tel 01332 571329

E-mail: Donald.C.Macdonald@btinternet.com

We are keen to publicise good practice and share environmental good practice on the Diocesan Web site environmental pages. Please let the Diocesan Officer know if you have news or information that you would like to share. Thank you.